



Where could Health & Social Care take you?

Wondering what to do after your Level 3 course?

Use this booklet to get a possible idea of your next steps in health and social care careers.

Included in this booklet:

- Qualifications you can get after level 3.
- The importance of work experience.
- Example courses and entry requirements.
- Health and social care career profiles.
- Information on Higher and Degree apprenticeships.
- Useful websites to help you research your options.

Aspire Higher

This leaflet was produced by **Aspire Higher**. We are a regional Uni Connect (formerly NCOP) Outreach Team. This booklet was produced in Spring 2021 and information was correct at that time.

The aim of the programme is to provide students with impartial advice about their future options with an emphasis on encouraging progression to higher level study. This leaflet has been produced to help schools and colleges provide information with clear links between their curriculum and future career options.

If you have any comments, questions or feedback, please contact us via our dedicated email address (aspirehigher@northampton.ac.uk) or via the Chat box on our website, www.aspire-higher.co.uk

Acknowledgement

Thank you to **Linking London** for their help producing this guide.

What next?

So, you're on track to complete your Level 3 qualification(s) and thinking about studying something related to Health & Social Care. The next section lays out a few things you should consider.

What are my options?

Higher education

go straight into studying at a higher level, either at university or a college.

Apprenticeship

combine working with studying to gain a higher-level qualification.

Work

go into a line of work with Level 3 qualification entry requirements, such as a nursing associate role.

What kind of qualification can you get after Level 3?

There are a range of qualifications you can study upon completion of your Level 3 course, depending on the grades you achieve and the kind of higher education provider you want to attend.

HNC - Level 4 - One year - Lower entry requirements

HND or Foundation Degree - Level 5 - One or two years
Lower entry requirements

Bachelor's Degree - Level 6 - Three years - Medium entry requirements

Usually, you will need a degree (BSc) to become, for example, a registered nurse. You can get this by following the traditional university route, or the increasingly popular degree apprenticeship route. We'll explain the difference later in this guide. If you're a qualified nursing associate, the degree can be shorter. If you want to be a social worker, you'll also need a degree although this does not necessarily have to be in social work – you can qualify via a postgraduate course.

You have probably heard of nursing and social work, but might not be aware of the wider range of courses related to Health and Social Care. Some of these include social policy, criminology, psychology, education studies, nutrition, psychosocial studies, occupational therapy, and law. Bear in mind that some universities will not accept a BTEC in Health and Social Care for these subjects; always check the website to see if your qualification is accepted.

UCAS has a really helpful 'undergraduate: what to study' page which includes a helpful explanation of the different kinds of higher education qualifications that exist. You can find this by searching 'UCAS types of qualification'.

Importance of work experience and non-academic factors

Experience of working, paid or voluntary, within a healthcare or social work setting will be really helpful when applying for a university place, however it is not compulsory.

Other work and voluntary experience may also be worth mentioning as long as you relate it to your suitability for the course you are applying for by mentioning transferable skills such as teamwork, communication, and interpersonal skills.

For degree courses like these you will almost always have to attend an interview or selection day.

For a nursing, midwifery, and other courses where you may work with vulnerable people, you will also need to pass an occupational health assessment and a detailed criminal background check.



This mapping was correct at the time of print in Spring 2021. While we have tried to ensure that this information is as up to date as possible we take no responsibility in terms of the accuracy. Please always check the relevant provider for the latest information. This is not an exhaustive list of all institutions offering courses related to Health and Social Care.

Examples of Health and Social Care related courses in UK universities

HEI	UCAS Tariff	A-Level	BTEC L3 Extended Diploma	Access to HE Diploma	GCSE
University of Sunderland BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences (Human Health)	112	BBC (must include biology or chemistry)	DMM (must include biology or chemistry)	Check with provider – a Foundation Year may be recommended	A minimum of 3 GCSEs at grade C/4 (or equivalent), including English Language and Maths
Brunel University, London BA (Hons) Education	Not accepted	CCC	DDM	96 UCAS tariff points (45 credits at Level 3)	A minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade C/4 (or equivalent), including English Language and Maths
University of Northampton BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing	112 points	BCC	DMM	At least 30 Level credits at Merit or above.	GCSE English Language and Maths at Grade C/4 (or equivalent)
Anglia Ruskin BA (Hons) Working with Children, Families and Communities	88 points	88 points from a minimum of 2 A Levels	Accepted on individual basis – check with university	Accepted on individual basis – check with university	A minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade C/4, including English Language and Maths

HEI	UCAS Tariff	A-Level	BTEC L3 Extended Diploma	Access to HE Diploma	GCSE
Goldsmiths, University of London BA Education, Culture & Society	Not accepted	BBC	DMM	45 Level 3 credits including Distinctions/Merits in subject specific modules	3 GCSEs at grade C/4 (or equivalent)
Salford College HND Healthcare Practice for England	64 points	64 points from a relevant Level 3 qualification	64 points from a relevant Level 3 qualification	64 points from a relevant Level 3 qualification	3 GCSEs at grade C/4 (or equivalent) in English, Mathematics and Science
University of Bedfordshire BSc (Hons) Children and Young People's Nursing	112-120 points	BBB - BBC	DDM - DMM	112-120 UCAS points	5 GCSEs grade C/4 (or equivalent) including English Language and Maths
University of Hertfordshire BSc (Hons) Nutrition	104 points	3 A levels with B in Biology and C in another science (Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Human Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Physical Education)	DMM in Applied Science (optional units should include biology and chemistry related subjects)	45 Level 3 credits at Merit including 15 in Biology and 15 in another science	GCSE Maths, English and 2 sciences (or double science) at grade C/4 (or equivalent)

HEI	UCAS Tariff	A-Level	BTEC L3 Extended Diploma	Access to HE Diploma	GCSE
University of Birmingham BNurs (Hons) Nursing (Mental Health)	Not accepted	BBB	DDM (Health and Social Care or Applied Science)	45 Level 3 credits (30 at Distinction and 15 at Merit)	A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade C/4 including Mathematics, Science and English or recognised Level 2 equivalents
University of Wolverhampton BA (Hons) Sociology & Social Policy	96 points	CCC	MMM	45 Level 3 credits at distinction	GCSE grade C/4 in English and Maths (or equivalent)
London South East Colleges (Bromley College) FDA Supporting Teaching & Learning	Not specified	Relevant Level 3 qualification Must be working (either paid or voluntary) in an appropriate school provision for two days per week	Relevant Level 3 qualification Must be working (either paid or voluntary) in an appropriate school provision for two days per week	Relevant Level 3 qualification Must be working (either paid or voluntary) in an appropriate school provision for two days per week	GCSE grade C/4 in English Language and Mathematics or recognised Level 2 equivalents required
Blackburn College FdA Early Childhood Studies	48 points	Equivalent to 48 points	Equivalent to 48 points	Equivalent to 48 points	GCSE English and Maths at grade C/4 (or equivalent)

HEI	UCAS Tariff	A-Level	BTEC L3 Extended Diploma	Access to HE Diploma	GCSE
Birmingham City University BA Social Work	120 points	BBB (including one of Health & Social Care, Human Biology, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Psychology, Social Science or Applied Science)	DDM in a health/ social science subject	45 credits at level 3 in health/science related subject	GCSE English language and Maths at grade C/4 (or equivalent)
Coventry University FdSC Nursing Associate	32 points	Equivalent to 32 points	Equivalent to 32 points	Equivalent to 32 points	GCSE English and Maths at grade C/4 (or equivalent)
New City College BA Social Work	80 points	CDD	MMP	Pass 45 credits at level 3	GCSE English Language and Maths at grade C/4 (or equivalent)
De Montfort University BSc (Hons) Midwifery	120 points	120 UCAS points from 3 A levels including grade B or above in Health and Social Care, Biology, Sports Science, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology or Sociology.	DDM Health and Social Care or Applied Science	Contact the University	Minimum 5 GCSEs including English, Maths and Science at grade C/4 (or equivalent) and at least 2 at B/6 (or equivalent)

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Career Options

Below we have included a few brief snapshots of careers and roles that you could pursue in the field of Health & Social Care. Much of this information was sourced from Prospects – we recommend looking online at their job profiles for careers in Public Services, Education, Social Care and Healthcare.

Midwife

Salary

Starting: £25,000. With experience: £31,365 to £37,890.

Brief Description

A midwife provides women and their babies with advice, care and support during pregnancy, labour and the early postnatal period. They help women make their own decisions on the care and services they access as well as providing health education and parenting advice.

Qualifications required

Must be registered with the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) which will be obtained on an approved pre-registration three year midwifery degree.

Nutritionist

Salary

Starting: £15,000 - £25,000. With experience: £30,000-£55,000.

Brief Description

Nutritionists will generate, assess and deliver scientific, evidence-based nutritional advice to improve people's health and well-being as well as promoting a healthy diet and lifestyle. Nutritionists work in a variety of settings including the NHS, food retailers, local authorities and sports organisations.

Qualifications required

Employers usually expect nutritionists to be registered with the Association for Nutrition (AfN) which requires a minimum of a degree in nutrition science.



Social Worker

Salary

Starting: £24,000 - £30,000. With experience: £30,000-£40,000.

Brief Description

Social Workers ensure that vulnerable people and children are safeguarded from harm through supporting individuals and their families through difficult times. A social worker helps improve outcomes in people's lives, but will need to use their professional judgement to make difficult decisions that might not always be well received by those who they are trying to help. Social workers may work in home, schools, hospitals or other public sector organisations.

Qualifications required

In order to qualify must have an Honours or a postgraduate degree in social work. The degree must be approved by Social Work England in order to work.

Early Years Teacher

Salary

Starting: £16,000-£18,000.

With experience: £22,000 - £30,000.

Brief Description

Early years teachers will use resources imaginatively to nurture, inspire and excite children through a crucial stage of their development. Early years teachers will help children develop their social and communication skills in a safe, secure environment to prepare them for the transition to primary education.

Qualifications required

Must have an early years teacher status through accredited Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT) programmes.

Policy Officer

Salary

Starting: £22,000 - £30,000.

With experience: £32,000 - £40,000.

Brief Description

A policy officer will use their initiative and a flexible approach to research and advise on issues and carry out developmental work, liaising with internal and external contacts within local and central government, think tanks and charities and various private sector organisations.

Qualifications required

An undergraduate degree is usually required in subjects such as public administration and social, policy, psychology or sociology.



Apprenticeships

There are a few different levels of nursing and healthcare apprenticeships out there.

The main one you have probably heard of is a nursing degree apprenticeship, where you work and study towards a BSc (Hons) in Nursing and Registered Nurse status. To be eligible for one of these, you usually need considerable professional experience as a nursing associate or healthcare support worker. Your employer then puts you forward for a Degree Apprenticeship in Nursing. A degree apprenticeship is at Level 6.

There are also lower levels of apprenticeships in the healthcare sector, like the ones we've listed here. You can find these on the NHS jobs sites for your area.

Role	Level
Healthcare support worker	3
Emergency Care Assistant	3
Nursing associate	5



The most important requirement for all apprenticeships is work experience and to preferably already be employed within the NHS. You will also need a C or 4 in GCSE English and Maths, and have to pass an enhanced criminal background check (DBS).

There are also social work degree apprenticeships, although these similarly require you to be employed in a social work setting already. You may want to look into Police Constable degree apprenticeships, if you are interested in working in this area.

Next Steps

1. Research your options

You need to be proactive and spend time finding out what options are available and most suitable for you. We have included a few helpful websites at the end of this leaflet which can be a good place to start. Research what work experience options are out there.

2. Create a shortlist of courses, higher education providers, and apprenticeships that you are interested in.

You might want to make your own spreadsheet, word document, specific notebook, or notes document on your phone to help with this. You'll want to keep a note of any application deadlines, open days or talks, and other key information like accommodation and financial support available.

3. Speak to your college careers team about your plans.

It's always good to discuss your plans with people who have lots of experience helping people like you make decisions. Chatting to people in your support network, like friends and family, is helpful but make sure to also use the careers professionals available to you through school or college. You can also speak to current students using platforms like UniBuddy and The Student Room.

So, what is The Pay Index?



Aspire Higher have signed up with The Pay Index to offer two exciting tools: **'My Future University'** and **'My Future Apprenticeships'**

The tools enable students to:

- Compare courses of study and the locations they are available in;
- Explore their earning potential, 1, 3, 5 or 10 years after graduation based on location;
- Understand what student loan repayments would look like after completion of study;
- Question the gender pay gap and empower females entering the workplace;
- Explore the types of apprenticeships available locally and nationally;
- Open a wider dialogue with teachers, careers advisors and parents about university.

Within each tool, Aspire Higher have uploaded a range of videos, activities and quizzes to deepen your knowledge on both university and apprenticeships.

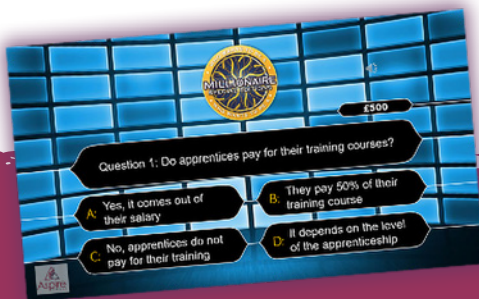


For more, watch this 2-minute video about the tool:
My Future University Introduction Video
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TFG0k1dzaY>).

Sign up and give it a try:

Sign up once and you will be able to access both tools.

Use this link, **The Pay Index Sign-up Link** or scan the QR code
(<https://www.thepayindex.com/aspire-higher/signup>).



Useful Websites

Aspire Higher

Our website has a wide range of resources to help support you on your higher education journey and make informed choices about what's right for you.

Search **Aspire Higher** or go to **www.aspire-higher.co.uk**

Prospects

Prospects has lots of information and advice about graduate careers and opportunities. They have a range of job profiles related to the Health and Social Care sector on their website, as well as lots of other helpful resources.

Search '**Prospects healthcare/social care job profiles**' or click: **www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-sector/social-care**

UCAS

UCAS has tons of resources to help guide you in your next educational steps. Creating an account on the UCAS Hub should be one of the first things you do. UCAS has a variety of subject guides that provide more information on different subject areas. The UCAS course search tool is also really helpful to see the range of courses out there at all the different higher education providers in the UK.

Search '**UCAS hub**' or click: **www.ucas.com/dashboard**

Search '**UCAS subject guides**' or click: **www.ucas.com/explore/subjects**

Search '**UCAS course search**' or click: **digital.ucas.com/search**

Find an apprenticeship

The government's apprenticeship search tool is one of the best ways to find higher and degree level apprenticeships.

Search '**find an apprenticeship**' or click: **www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/**

RateMyApprenticeship

RateMyApprenticeship also advertises apprenticeship vacancies and has lots of resources available to help you through the apprenticeship application process, as well as reviews from current apprentices.

Search '**ratemyapprenticeship**' or click: www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/

Unibuddy

A service which connects prospective students with university ambassadors (current students) and staff.

Search '**unibuddy**' or click: unibuddy.com

The Student Room

You can access advice from prospective, current, and former students on this platform.

Search '**the student room**' or click: www.thestudentroom.co.uk

NHS Careers

The NHS careers website is a helpful resource for learning about all the different careers within the NHS, and it also posts job vacancies.

Search '**NHS careers**' or click: www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/

National Careers Service

This is a government service which can be helpful in providing an overview of entry requirements and routes into certain careers.

Search '**national careers service healthcare**' or click: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-categories/healthcare>

